

Kansas State Collegian

Opinion editor Laura Thacker discusses decriminalizing domestic violence on page 4

www.kstatecollegian.com

tuesday, october 11, 2011

vol. 117 | no. 36



Thursday:
High: 71 F
Low: 46 F

03

No show
The commissioner of the NBA has cancelled the first two weeks of the season.

04

Security issues
Collegian writer Andy Rao discusses how to solve immigration problems.

06

Cough, cough, sneeze
Lafene Health Center is arming students with flu shots and information.



Former Skinhead tells story of redemption to audience

staff report

Frank Meeink walked onto the stage in jeans and a T-shirt with a button up shirt over it. The sleeves on his button-up shirt were rolled up, showing his full-sleeve tattoos. These tattoos cover up the more than 30 neo-Nazi tattoos he used to have.

Growing up in South Philadelphia, Penn., Meeink had a hard childhood. He grew up Irish-Catholic and his mom rebelled against the community through sexually promiscuous behavior. Meeink saw his father rarely, only about every six months or so. He said every summer, the community wanted to get rid of the kids for two weeks, so they sent them to camp.

"When I came back from camp one summer, there was a man there," Meeink said. "He just came down and started playing [sic] electronic football with me. He asked me if he could move in and I told him I didn't care. But soon after him and my mom got married, he started [sic] beating me. Beatings were anywhere from him winding up and punching me in the back of the head to [sic] black eyes."

Meeink said his stepfather grounded him often for acting up, so when Meeink was able to go to school, he acted out. He got into fights, beat kids up and did other bad things. The problem with getting in trouble in school was it was right in Meeink's neighborhood, so he was sent straight home each time and his stepfather was always there to beat him. Eventually, his stepfather told him it was time to move in with his biological father.

Meeink described his new school in southwest Philadelphia as a complete hell. If two kids were going at it, there would always be someone who would come up and sucker punch him



Lauren Gocken | Collegian

Frank Meeink, a former Neo-Nazi skinhead, speaks about growing up in Philadelphia, being poor, and equality and diversity Monday evening in Forum Hall in the K-State Student Union.

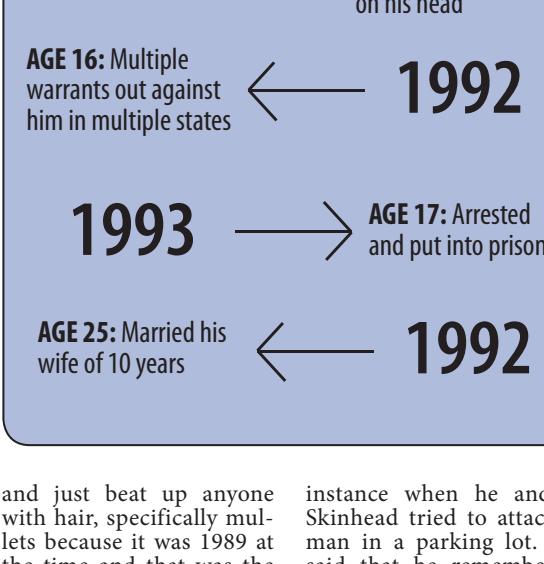
in the side, Meeink said. There were no such things as fair fights.

"Everyday I would go to school and just pray that I wouldn't get into a [sic] fight," Meeink said.

That summer, his dad said Meeink could do whatever he wanted, so he decided to move in with his cousins in the countryside. Meeink said his cousin was nothing like what he remembered — he was now a Skinhead. His cousin had a Confederate flag on one side of his porch door and a swastika flag on the other panel. Meeink described his cousin's room as a shrine for neo-Nazism with the walls covered in newspaper clippings about Hitler and others.

"One night, my cousin said that we were going to a concert," Meeink said. "When we got there, there were many other [sic] Skinheads there. They would go into a nightclub and just beat up anyone with hair, specifically mullets because it was 1989 at the time and that was the cool thing to [sic] do."

Meeink described an instance when he and a Skinhead tried to attack a man in a parking lot. He said that he remembered the look of fear in the guy's eyes and said after four



[sic] days, I just didn't [sic] eat. But because my case was high profile and [sic], the warden wanted to make sure I wasn't doing it for a statement or anything like that. He told me that if I ate something, I could be put in the general population."

After bouncing around a number of prisons, he stayed in one for some time. He sold three-way calling and traded weed with the Latin Kings.

While Meeink was in prison, his girlfriend at the time had his first child. Three weeks after her birth, his girlfriend sent him a letter telling him what a terrible person he was.

"After I was released from prison, I went and visited my daughter," Meeink said. "My daughter was about five months at this time. But my girl and I got into a huge [sic] fight and so I went away. I ran from my [sic] problems. So I ran back to Philly and went and met with the Philly Skinheads and the New York Skinheads who were trying to patch [sic] up."

When he went to a party and asked one of the New York Skinheads if Meeink's daughter was a white person, even though she is 95 percent Italian, the New York Skinhead said she wasn't. This caused Meeink to beat the other guy and finally made him realize that this is not the life he wanted for himself or his child.

After he left the Skinheads, he saw the hate people like that did, specifically in the Oklahoma City bombing. He said seeing a firefighter carrying a little 2-year-old girl out of the wreckage was absolutely gut wrenching.

"We all live by two things, especially males," Meeink said. "We live by our reputation and our character. Do I do the right thing when no one is looking? That is character. We are human beings and here to do the next right thing."

Students find niche on campus through Union Program Council

Jakki Thompson
staff writer

Posters hung from every wall, and the floor was covered with event materials in the Union Program Council offices on the third floor of the K-State Student Union. The UPC is an organization with a mission to help facilitate events on campus that increase student involvement in safe places that are alcohol-free. The events the UPC sponsor are featured either in the Union or around campus. Student privilege fees that come out of tuition at the beginning of the semester fund this organization.

"In 1955, UPC was created when the Student Union was built," said Christina Ballew, vice president of membership for UPC and senior in hotel and restaurant management.

"Students don't know this, but they pay about \$5 on their tuition and that money goes to us. We use that money to sponsor educational programs and speakers, concerts, entertainment and to reach out to new people on campus."

Ballew said her first impression of UPC was that they just showed a lot of movies. Now that she has been an active

member for four years, she knows that UPC does much more than that. After she went to the first meeting, it clicked that UPC was the organization for her, she said.

Ballew is not the only student to realize UPC was where she belonged.

"I was a transfer student from a community college so the transition to a larger university was hard for me," said Amanda Shankle, senior in marketing and vice president of promotions for UPC. "I wanted to get involved and meet new people. I was originally trying to get involved in the radio station, but I missed the meeting.

Since I missed the meeting, I was flipping through the K-State planner and found information on UPC. Their meeting was the next night, so I decided to check it out and get involved in that. I have been involved ever since."

Many students are unaware of where their privilege fees go, but UPC is one of those sources. It provides alternative activities for students on campus without having alcohol in the equation.

"UPC is an organization on campus that is responsible for bringing educational events

to campus and to show what KSU has to offer," said Michelle Foster, multicultural co-chair for UPC and junior in political science and American ethnic studies. "Specifically, the After Hours committee gives students something to do other than just going to Aggieville. We offer alternatives to alcohol."

The planning processes for events typically takes time at the end of the previous spring semester to implement them for the fall. Foster said in the previous spring semester, UPC tried to plan six to eight weeks into the following school year.

All three people who were interviewed said students should not be afraid to get involved in UPC. They have meetings every other Tuesday at Salsarita's in the Union. Students can enjoy the free food that UPC offers and participate in whatever committees they want.

"Without committee members, we wouldn't be able to put on the events that we do," Shankle said. "We wouldn't be able to do all of these things ourselves. We reward our

UPC | pg. 5

Documentary exposes students to poetry through sign language

Grant Zizzo
staff writer

Students and community members alike shared an enriching exploration of the deaf community through the movie "Deaf Jam" in the School of Leadership Studies last night. The film, a 2011 documentary directed by Judy Lieff, follows deaf New York teen Aneta Brodski as she learns to express herself through slam poetry using American Sign Language.

The film also briefly chronicled the history of ASL, a communication form that was banned from public schools until the 1960s in favor of English Sign and spoken word.

The film is one of many which are available through Community Cinema, which are taken from episodes of the Emmy-award winning PBS series "Independent Lens." "Deaf Jam" is the second of four films to show this semester as part of a practicum project organized by two students in Leadership Studies classes.

Samantha Burkhalter, one of the practicum students in charge of the event and senior in women's studies, said the movie was advertised not only to students but also to the Manhattan, Junc-

tion City and Kansas City deaf and poetry communities.

"We wanted to be able to show those in the poetry community what the deaf are able to do," Burkhalter said.

Of the approximately 30 people in attendance, many were students from the FSHS 415 Manual Communication class.

More information about community cinema can be obtained through the HandsOn K-State website at handsont.k-state.edu or by calling 785-532-3670.

"Deaf people don't see it [deafness] as an impairment, they see it as a culture with a different language," said Lindsey Elder, a student in the sign language class and senior in communication sciences and disorders.

This statement was reiterated numerous times throughout the film and manifested itself among the interactions of those in attendance of the event who were themselves deaf. Natalie Beharry, a sign language translator in the K-State Disability Support Services department and instructor of the Manual Communication class, acted as trans-

lator for the deaf at the event.

In an open discussion following the movie, many students and community members said they did not realize the deaf are such a proud, developed and tight community.

"It is amazing that there is so much emotion in our language and it translates to the deaf community," said Talia Timler, a student in the sign language class and senior in jewelry and metalsmithing. "You can tell if someone has a western accent or a black dialect in ASL."

The next Community Cinema event will take place on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall room of the Leadership Studies Building. The film, "We Still Live Here," follows linguist Jane Little Doe as she revives the Wampanoag language. The Wampanoag were the first Native Americans to interact with the pilgrims when they arrived in America.

The film follows the theme of the program Women and Girls LEAD, which supports community films as they portray women in roles of effectual change. More information about community cinema can be obtained through the HandsOn K-State website at handsont.k-state.edu or by calling 785-532-3670.

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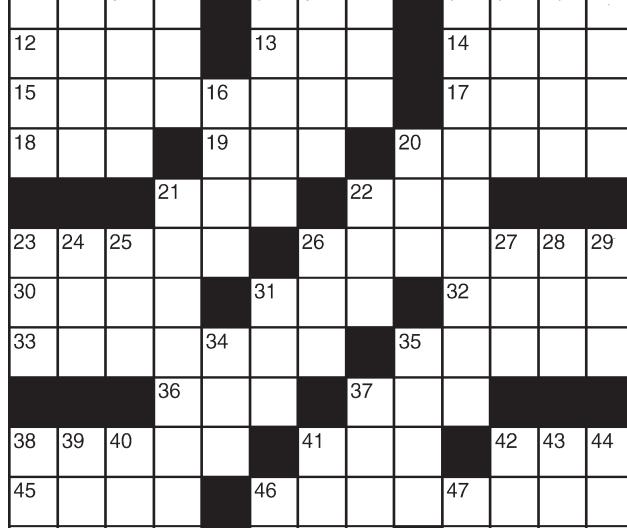


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Yesterday's answer 10-11



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10-11 CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A WISH SOMEBODY COULD OFFER TO SURGEONS WIELDING GRASPING TOOLS: "MAY THE FORCEPS BE WITH YOU!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals P

Bailey Mia Ray, of Wichita, was booked for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$25,000.

Logan's Run | By Erin Logan



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CORRECTIONS

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, please call our editor-in-chief, Tim Schrag, at 785-532-6556, or e-mail him at news@spub.ksu.edu.

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K-State daily briefs

Karen Ingram

news editor

The Women's Brown Bag Lunch Series continues in the Student Union's Sunflower Room tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. The topic is undergraduate women student leaders and their roles in representing students. Questions may be directed to Noel Schulz at noels@ksu.edu.

The City Commission will not meet this week. The commission will hold its next meeting Oct. 18.

The Riley County Police Department received a report of shots fired on the 700 block of K-

arney early on Saturday morning, approximately 3:30 a.m. There were no injuries. According to Sgt. Ryan Flerlage of the RCPD, shell casings were recovered at the scene, but it is unknown at this time what kind of gun was fired.

There are no suspects at this time and the incident is under investigation. Please direct information to the Riley County Police Department at 785-537-2112.

The RCPD is also still investigating the armed robbery of Community First National Bank that occurred on Oct. 4 at approximately 4:45 p.m. A white male, between 5'8" and 5'10" handed the teller a note and revealed a handgun. The suspect fled on

foot toward Sarber Lane and Hayes Drive. The bank is offering a reward for any information leading to the suspect's arrest. Please direct information to the Riley County Police Department at 785-537-2112.

The K-State LGBT Resource Center is hosting a rally for National Coming Out Day today.

The rally will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Leadership Studies Building's amphitheater. It will be followed by a vigil to remember LGBT members who have lost their lives. The event is open to the public. Questions may be directed to 785-532-5299.

The RCPD is also still investigating the armed robbery of Community First National Bank that occurred on Oct. 4 at approximately 4:45 p.m. A white male, between 5'8" and 5'10" handed the teller a note and revealed a handgun. The suspect fled on

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THE BLOTTER

ARREST REPORTS

SUNDAY

Bailey Mia Ray, of Wichita, was booked for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$25,000.

Dennis Garth Wheaton III, of Ogden, was booked for disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property, battery against a law enforcement officer and assault of a law enforcement officer. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Michael David Parrett, of the 900 block of Wildcat Ridge, was booked for domestic battery. Bond was set at \$500.

- compiled by Sarah Rajewski

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Early season NBA games canceled due to stall in talks

Mark Kern
assistant sports editor

On Sunday, players and owners met in hopes of being able to start the NBA season. There was no agreement or any new developments in the meetings on Sunday night, but enough took place that union officials agreed to postpone a meeting in Los Angeles with membership so that they could reconvene on Monday.

Commissioner David Stern had set the deadline for Monday, saying if no agreement had been reached, the start of the season would be canceled. The players and owners met with the hope that they can salvage the start of the season. On Monday night, Stern made the decision to cancel the first two weeks of the season, including all games scheduled up to Nov. 14.

Representatives of the players at the meeting included the Players Association president Derek Fisher and vice president Maurice Evans, while NBA deputy commissioner Adam Silver and Minnesota Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor were among those who represented the owners. Both sides were also represented by lawyers.

Monday's meetings were a continuation of the meetings that took place on Sunday night. On Sunday night, the two sides met for hours in a hotel. However, the sides were talking about the system issues, not the main holdup in the talks, which is how the revenue is going to be split among the players and owners.

Last season, the players made 57 percent of the revenue and the owners think that is far too much. In recent proposals, the players have offered to trim the number to 53 percent, but the owners want it to be 50-50. The players have stated that they will not agree to the 50-50 percent if the owners are also trying to change some of the system rules.

Some of the other changes that the owners want include harsh taxes for big-spending teams, lowering the mid-level salary cap exception and narrowing players' "Larry Bird" exception rights, which means teams can go over the salary cap to sign their free agents.

Both sides made the decision to meet on Monday because they felt that there was progress being made. Neither side would show their hand, but there was more optimism than when the sides broke up their meetings last Tuesday.

The players are starting to show their support like the NFL players did during their lockout.

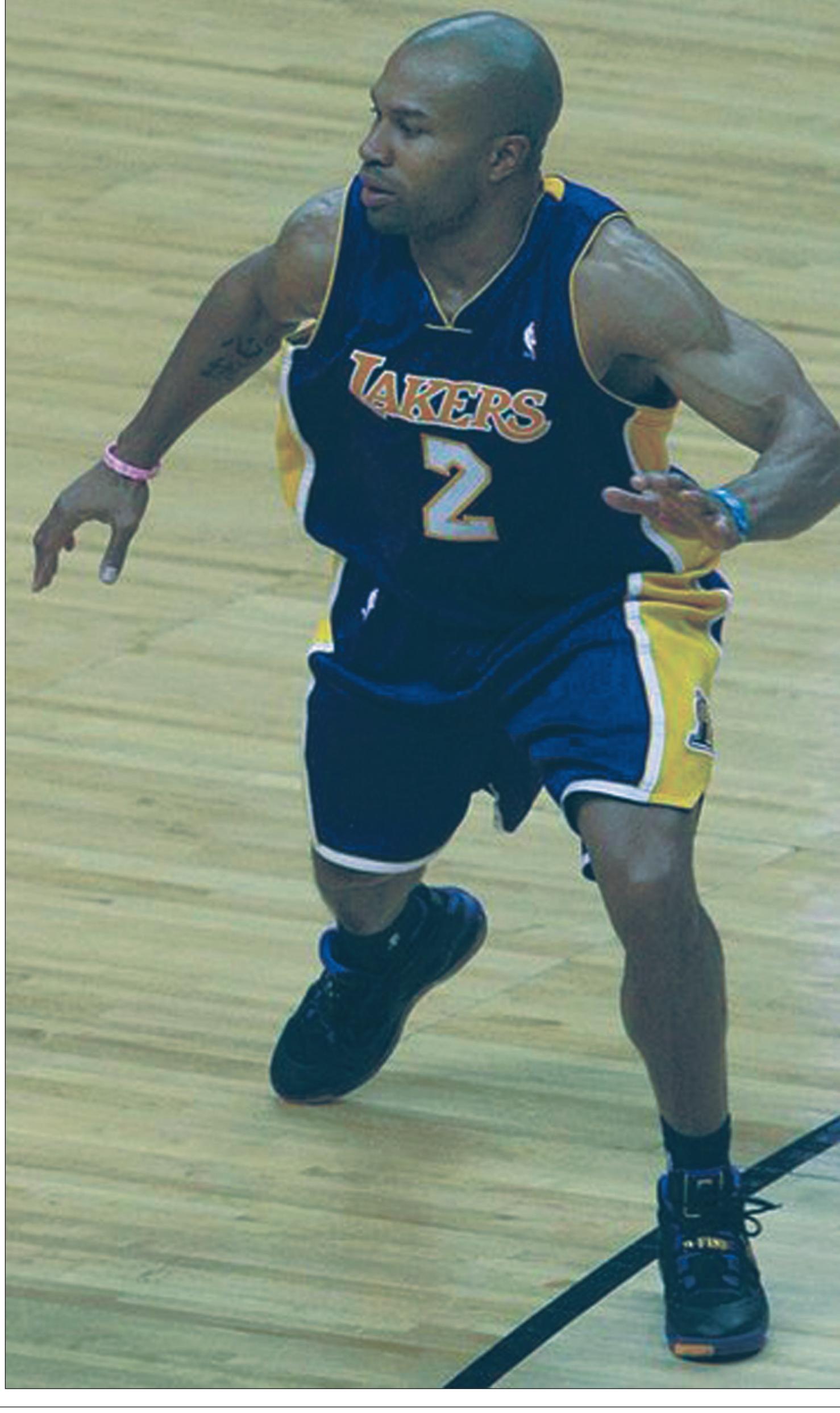
Players like Fisher, Chris Paul and Johnny Flynn are just a few that have gone to the Internet to show they are ready for the lockout to end. These players all posted "LET US PLAY" on their Twitter accounts to show that they are ready for all of the negotiating to be done and to get back on the court.

Both sides ultimately want to get the season started as soon as possible, but they both want to feel that their side gets a fair deal.

After the meeting with league officials ended Monday night, the union will be meeting in Los Angeles in the next couple of days. Before Stern's announcement Monday night that the games were canceled, fans took heart that discussions were moving in the right direction from the fact that the sides stayed in New York City to keep talking.

courtesy photo

Derek Fisher plays defense in a game last season. Fisher is now the president of the National Basketball Players Association and represents the players in the ongoing discussions with team owners as the two sides try to end the lockout.



No. 17 Wildcats considered underdogs?



The Wildcats are ranked No. 17 in the country. They have one of the stingiest defenses in the country, a far cry from their atrocious defensive effort in the 2010 season that earned them a 106-ranking in total defense. Starting quarterback Collin Klein is among the top 10 in rushing yards by a quarterback in the country, and his gutsy, bloody performances are a staple of the team's revamped attitude.

Head coach Bill Snyder, now a mere 72 years old, is in the process of resurrecting, for a second time, a program that was left in shambles by former head coach Ron Prince. And because of Snyder's efforts, the Wildcats are 5-0 with victories over Miami, then-No. 15 Baylor and a Missouri team that not only shook the cages of the No. 1 Oklahoma Sooners, but was also favored by three points against the Wildcats.

So what I can't figure out is why the Wildcats are three-point underdogs going

into their game at Texas Tech, one of the consensus bottom-feeders of the Big 12 who have failed to produce a victory over a team with a winning record this year.

Texas Tech's victories are against Texas State (who?), New Mexico, Nevada, and Kansas (you think the 2010 K-State defense was bad, the Jayhawks look like a Pop Warner team when the other team has the ball).

The only decent performance the Red Raiders had was in loss against Texas A&M last week. They lost 45-40 against the No.

24-ranked Aggies, a team that is arguably the biggest disappointment in the Big 12, with a 3-2 overall record and a 1-1 conference mark despite being ranked in the top 10 nationally early in the year.

Personally I think this

line of the Red Raiders being three-point favorites smells like the manure that the

Texas Tech student body

filled the Aggies' buses with

prior to their matchup last

week. The Red Raiders' star

running back Eric Stephens,

who has 570 yards rushing

and eight touchdowns, has

been ruled out for the rest of

the season with a torn ACL.

He was the only player keep-

ing the Red Raiders in the

game against Texas A&M.

Texas Tech is ranked 67

in the country in points allowed per game as they give up just over 27 points a game. If K-State scored 27 points in all five of its games, the Wildcats would be 4-1, with the only loss coming to the Baylor Bears.

On the flipside, the Wildcats' defense is 15th in the country in points allowed, as they only give up 16 points per game.

Statistics always tell a story, and for the most part, numbers do not lie. But sometimes the numbers hide the true story.

Texas Tech has only been in one grind-it-out, battle-to-the-death type of game, and that was against the Aggies. And they lost.

As for the Wildcats, they have been in four close, raise-your-blood pressure type of games, and all four times K-State has done

what it had to do to win. In

the first game of the year,

K-State avoided disaster by

hauling a 37-yard pass to

Chris Harper in the back of

the end zone to beat Eastern

Kentucky — the text mes-

sage from my father that

said "this is going to be a

long year" in response to

that game is now a distant

memory for both of us.

They made one of the most

impressive defensive stands

in college football so far this

year against Miami when

they kept the Hurricanes out of the end zone on four straight goal line plays. Then they picked off the impervious Robert Griffin III, the first time anybody had done that all year to him, to set up a game-winning field goal against Baylor. Against Missouri, the Wildcats survived a late rally by driving down the field on the last drive of the game to run out the clock and win 24-17.

The Wildcats do whatever it takes to win. Simple as that.

K-State is the most recent team from the now-defunct Big 12 North to win a Big 12 title — remember 2003 and the "unbeatable" No. 1 Oklahoma Sooners that K-State went to Kansas City and beat 35-7? And that was under the leadership of Bill Snyder.

He knows what it takes to overcome the media, the public, and everybody else doubting him and his team.

After the Missouri win, the Wildcats' players ran into the tunnel and began

chanting the lyrics to a song

by rapper Young Jeezy. I

have no doubts K-State will

do what that song proclaims

this week against Texas

Tech. "Win! Win, Win!"

Sean Frye is a sophomore in mass communications. Please send comments to sports@pub.ksu.edu.

Two-minute drill

Monty Thompson
sports editor

NFL

After a slow start to Sunday night's game, Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers worked their way past the Atlanta Falcons in a 25-14 win. The Falcons came out firing and gained a 14-0 lead early in the second quarter. At half-time both teams marched to the locker rooms with the Falcons leading 14-6 after a pair of Packers field goals. The second half was dominated by Green Bay as Rodgers completed two touchdown passes and ended the night with 396 yards through the air. Last season's Super Bowl champions now stand at 5-0 as they prepare to take on the Minnesota Vikings next Sunday.

MLB

The Milwaukee Brewers walked away victorious after the first game of the National League Championship Series versus the St. Louis Cardinals. After falling behind 5-2 in the top of the fifth inning, the Brewers answered instantly with a six-run surge led by first baseman Prince Fielder and left fielder Ryan Braun. Both

the Cardinals and Brewers got on the scoreboard once again in the seventh, but Milwaukee held on in game one to win 9-6.

NBA

The final meeting for NBA players and coaches has been scheduled this week in hopes of reaching an agreement in time to avoid the cancellation of the season's first two weeks. Though no agreement has been made up to this point, members of the players union have agreed to stay in New York City in order to hold another meeting with league officials this week.

NCAA

Members of Texas Christian University's board of trustees are scheduled to meet this week to accept the invitation to join the Big 12 Conference. After joining, TCU will become the 10th member of the current nine-team conference and will be given an equal share of revenue from the conference's new television deal starting in June. Formerly a member of the Southwestern Conference before its dispersion, TCU will once again have the opportunity to play against former rivals Texas, Texas Tech and Baylor.

K-STATE SPORTS BLOG

For info that doesn't make the sports page.

kstatecollegian.com/blogs

Topeka's domestic violence debacle puts people at risk



Laura Thacker

While to many, the consequences for those who commit domestic violence seem obvious, how to deal with these cases and who deals with them has been a matter of contention for decades. Recently, this argument has hit close to home as the Topeka City Council tries to decide which jurisdiction these cases fall under — the city or the county — and is decriminalizing the offense and setting free alleged offenders in the meantime.

According to an Oct. 4 Topeka Capital-Journal article by Tim Hrenchir, Mayor Bill Bunten stated that the question is not if these things will be punished but "who prosecutes them, the municipal court or the district court, and who pays for it, the city or the county or a combination." But where does that leave victims and families while these issues are decided?

This turmoil began on Sept. 8 when District Attorney Chad Taylor announced "that his office would no longer prosecute misdemeanors, including domestic violence" due to lack of resources, according to a Sept. 14 Topeka Capital-Journal article by Tim Hrenchir and Angela Deines.

The article makes it clear that alleged offenders released aren't necessarily off the hook, but will be tried at a later date. This leaves these alleged offenders to return home, to the scene where they were accused of perpetrating violence, with no clear consequences. What is to stop them from doing it again? Or doing something far worse than what got them thrown in jail the first time, when they know — or at least think they know — they

can walk away scot-free?

According to the KBI, law enforcement in Kansas made one domestic violence arrest every 41 minutes and 48 seconds in 2009. Of the 22,873 victims, 68 percent were women, and 72 percent of the perpetrators were men. As Topeka is the fourth largest city in Kansas, the number of people that could potentially walk free to do more damage in this current situation is not something to ignore. And, with the release of 30-plus alleged offenders since the original announcement, it is unlikely that any further violence will be reported.

"When an abusive partner is arrested, the victim's danger level increases," said Becky Dickinson of the YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment. "The abuser will often become more violent in an attempt to regain control," according to an Oct. 4 Topeka Capital-Journal article by Angela Deines.

In many situations, it takes people years to even make the initial phone call to report domestic violence. If they finally get the courage, report it, and the perpetrator is released and further violence is inflicted, why would anyone report again? They tried it once and it led to worse consequences. The system has ultimately failed these people.

Decriminalizing

issues like domestic violence gives institutionally-supported power to those in dominant positions. Even though Bunten told Hrenchir that "everyone on the council supports punishing those who commit domestic battery," the actions of the past month

show otherwise. The feelings of those on the council are not helping the victims who are being put back into dangerous situations because of monetary issues.

Maybe the people making

these decisions

should

donate

part of

their salaries to

getting these cases processed — I have a feeling the decision would be made much faster. The phrase "actions speak louder than words" has multiple levels of meaning in this instance, and if someone doesn't start taking action, those affected by domestic violence may not have the chance for their words to be heard.

Laura Thacker is a senior in English and women's studies. Please send all comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.



Illustration by Erin Logan

TO THE POINT

People too quick to make moral judgments

To the point is an editorial selected and debated by the editorial board and written after a majority opinion is formed. This is the Collegian's official opinion.

When someone commits a crime that we as a society find terrible, many times these people will never be forgiven and will always be thought of as a horrible person. Is that right? We as an editorial board believe that people can change and that the person they were is not necessarily the person that they will always be. This is a great topic with recovering skinhead Frank Meeink on campus, the news about Topeka's decriminalizing domestic violence, and campus staple Brother Jed, who voiced his opinion on sinners in the middle of Bosco Student Plaza.

We cannot wrap our heads around why people do some of the things that they do. We are just shocked at what they have done without finding out anything about the person who committed the crime. Many of these people that do these things that we consider hor-

rible have lived a life that we cannot fully understand without being in their shoes.

These people have never been taught or understand what is right from wrong. Frank Meeink is a perfect example of this.

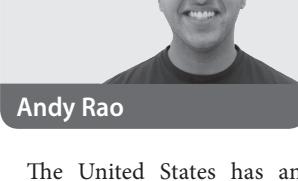
He was a known skinhead that did things that most of us find horrible and unforgivable. However, after being put in jail for a crime that he committed, he changed the way he lived. He played football with a couple of people of a different race that helped him stay alive while he was in jail. This experience taught him how he could change and be a better person.

There are many stories of people that have experiences like this and change their lives for better. We as a society should start looking at people and wonder how we can help them rather than just thinking "what a terrible person."

Amnesty, border security both essential to curbing illegal immigration fairly



Illustration by Yosuke Michishita



Andy Rao

The United States has an extremely rich history, and the term "the Great American Melting Pot" has long been used to describe national diversity.

Since the earliest part of the 20th century, there has been a flood of people making the trip to the "Promised Land," in search of the opportunity for a better life. The famous Ellis Island was the gateway to the U.S. for many, as hundreds of thousands of travelers, businesspeople and even refugees made the voyage from their homelands to make America their new home.

Today, however, the U.S. has a pressing issue that has gone through much deliberation but has yet to be resolved: illegal immigration.

According to "U.S. illegal immigrant population steady," a Reuters article by Tim Gaynor, the U.S. had 11

million illegal immigrants as of March 2010. Many of these illegal immigrants are a part of the workforce.

The problem with illegal immigration has always been the economic concerns. Although anyone that is in this country illegally is unaccounted for and therefore does not pay taxes, they are taking employment benefits away from those who are legal residents. They also can take medical benefits, and use other facilities such as roads, schools and pretty much any other service funded through taxes.

Now, this is hardly fair. We all agree that we have a crucial problem on our hands, but tackling the issue in the wrong way could just make it worse.

Conservatives have long called for an enforcement-only approach, meaning that they are in favor of rounding up all of the illegal immigrants and deporting them. They also recently have increased their initiatives to challenge the birthright citizenship that the children of illegal immigrants have traditionally been granted.

I'm all in favor of enforcing

the law of the land, but I just don't see how it's physically possible to find 11 million il-

legal immigrants and deport them.

In addition, taking away the birthright citizenship from those who were born here has legal and ethical ramifications;

natural born citizenship is a Constitutional right, and the actions of their parents should not dictate their citizenship status.

So what should we do? The solution is packaging together amnesty and border fortification.

Giving amnesty to illegals may seem unfair to those who went through the laborious process of immigrating legally, but at this point is the most reasonable and economically practical action that the U.S. government can take.

The main reason is because granting amnesty would mean that the government can account for those in the workforce, requiring them to pay taxes off of earnings.

Amnesty has long been debated as a cop-out to law enforcement, but in reality it is the only way that the U.S. can truly account for those working and living illegally.

Don't kick them out; make them pay taxes and contribute to the system from which they have been benefitting.

The government cannot expect the problem to just go away, however. The other part of the solution is to increase border security and reform immigration measures.

According to "Smuggler tunnels probe for U.S. border weakness," a Feb. 22 CNN article by Rafael Romo, smugglers have been using tunnels along the U.S.-Mexico border in order to smuggle illegal immigrants and drugs into the country.

Though the U.S. has governmental departments and border patrol to monitor such activities, attempts at stopping them have been futile.

Border security is key if the U.S. wants to enforce immigration law. If we do not do a much better job at controlling the inflows of illegal immigrants, our system will sag even more with the weight of trying to pay for people who do not contribute their fair share.

Amnesty is the solution to the present, but border security is the essential component to justify granting amnesty in the future.

Andy Rao is a sophomore in finance and accounting. Please send all comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.



Rising airfare costs, added fees affect travel plans

Sophia Lee
Kristy Pyke
 Daily Trojan, U. Southern California via UWIRe

Students who typically fly home for the holidays are expressing frustration over increasing airfare costs and additional fees.

Since last March, airfare prices for most U.S. carriers have increased between \$10 and \$60. In an effort to prevent ticket prices from increasing further, airlines are finding other ways to create revenue.

Airlines have begun imposing extra fees on heavy-packing fliers, among other efforts to increase revenue.

Continental Airlines and United Airlines now charge \$400 for bags weighing 71 to 100 pounds for many international flights, while American Airlines charges \$450 for overweight bags on its Asian-bound flights. For the first checked bag, Continental, American and United charge \$25, and the fees increase to up to \$200 by the third bag. These fees can be especially burdensome on college students with tight budgets.

"I don't think it's that airlines are specifically targeting students, but it does turn out that way," said Erica Zara, a U.

Southern California junior majoring in psychology. "They're trying to squeeze every dollar out of you that they can."

Zara said she flies back home to Las Vegas six to seven times a year.

"I try to carry less bags, but if I'm going on a long trip, then I'll wind up still paying for it," Zara said. "What else can you do? Fuel costs are rising, and the economy is bad. It's a tough time for everyone."

USC alumnus and transportation expert Alan Huynh, however, attributes the increased prices and the future rise in airfare to federal regulations.

"Fees have increased because of different federal regulations imposed on airports," Huynh said. "That is why they charge you \$25 these days to carry on an extra item."

Any future tax increase will also affect the price of airplane tickets.

"The corporate taxes will affect ticket prices," Huynh said. "The airlines are businesses. These big businesses will be paying more taxes. They will pass those costs to customers."

Airlines were also hit hard by the closure of non-essential government services this summer.

"A big thing that happened

this summer is that the [Federal Aviation Administration] shut down," Huynh said. "The federal government loses money whenever there is a federal shut-down, but there is more of an impact in that the government loses a billion dollars in ticket fees."

Though Huynh said he does not believe the government shut-down this summer is currently affecting ticket fees, which means taxes will only continue to increase.

With the increased prices, students said they are doing all they can to cut back and get around the hidden fees.

Zara said she has since switched from flying Spirit to Southwest because of bag fees. While Spirit charges \$38 to \$50 for the first checked bag and \$45 to \$50 for the second bag, Southwest does not impose any fees for the first two checked bags.

Other students said they agree increased prices will play a role in what airline they choose.

Thalia Ertman, a USC sophomore majoring in history and East Asian languages and cultures, said she looked for the lowest price when buying a ticket to fly home to Potomac, Md., for Thanksgiving this year.

"I always try to find the cheapest flight there is when I go," Ertman said. "I make sure to search around."

Some students said the increased fees also change the way they travel.

"There have been times when I have made sure to carry on because they charge you all these ridiculous fees," said Lydia Froemelt, a USC senior majoring in engineering management and industrial and systems engineering. "I try to choose airlines where you don't have to deal with those extra charges."

Huynh said Southwest has been able to keep its prices down because of efficiency.

"For Southwest, they are probably just eating the cost," Huynh said. "They did all these things to cut costs off. They use a certain kind of airplane that is a more efficient airplane. They did that before everyone else figured it out."

But for most students traveling out-of-state, the costs are a burden. Flying is inevitable and students will pay what they have to in order to go home.

"I only go home for Thanksgiving and Christmas," Froemelt said. "I pay whatever I have to because that's the only time I see my family."

UPC | Council 'like a second home' to student

Continued from page 1

opportunity to get involved and grow as people. Shankle said she was shy in high school and being a part of UPC helped her with public speaking skills and her ability to be a leader. Ballew also expressed learning the same set of skills.

"I would have transferred out if I wouldn't have gotten involved," Shankle said. "UPC has become like a second home to me. It was the type of family that I needed."

UPC gives students the

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TACO LUCHA is now hiring cooks and kitchen help. A group interview will be held on Thursday, October 13 at 7pm or apply in person at 1130 Morro (So Long Saloon).

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Fire Prevention Week kicks off with new theme, 'Protect Your Family From Fire'

Kelsey Peterson
contributing writer

Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

This year's Fire Prevention Week is kicking off at K-State in both Manhattan and Salina with a new theme — "Protect Your Family From Fire."

"We have Fire Prevention Week every year," said Randy Slover, director of fire safety inspections and K-State's fire marshal. "K-State is a family, so we thought the theme was appropriate. It's important to stress that one person's actions can have an impact on the entire family."

The prevention week will be held this week, Oct. 10-14, and will be offering special events for people to participate in.

K-State's Division of Public Safety, the Manhattan Fire Department, the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office and the Kansas State Forestry Service are sponsoring the 2011 Fire Prevention

while they are cooking and don't leave the room."

The activities that are available will include fire extinguisher training, distribution of educational materials, door prizes

when approaching a fire," Seymour said. "It stands for pull pin, aim nozzle, squeeze handle and sweep back on base of fire to remove oxygen from fuel source."

The Kansas State Forestry Service will be available and have a Wildlife Type VI fire engine on display for others to view. They will have fire hats that are free for the participants.

The first events offered were held south of the Derby Dining Center on Monday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Today, they will be changing the location to Bosco Student Plaza from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and again on Wednesday. The activities will continue to the K-State-Salina campus on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Those events will take place east of the College Center. The Salina Fire Department will participate in conjunction with the event.

"Remember to use the acronym PASS when approaching a fire. It stands for pull pin, aim nozzle, squeeze handle and sweep back on base of fire to remove oxygen from fuel source."

James Seymour
fire safety inspector for on-campus housing

week. Representatives will be available to answer questions about fire safety.

"Cooking is the No. 1 thing that leads people to have fires," said Rick Stillwagon, Manhattan fire inspector and K-State's off-campus fire inspector. "People need to be attentive

and fire-fighting apparatus displays and demonstrations.

James Seymour, fire safety inspector for the on-campus housing, will be demonstrating how to properly use a fire extinguisher.

"You will have to remember to use the acronym PASS

and fire-fighting apparatus displays and demonstrations.

James Seymour, fire safety inspector for the on-campus housing, will be demonstrating how to properly use a fire extinguisher.

"You will have to remember to use the acronym PASS

Facebook under scrutiny for storing users' browsing information even when logged out

Naheed Rajwani
Daily Bruin, University of California - Los Angeles

Americans spend about 53 billion minutes on Facebook per month — more than on any other social networking site, according to research conducted by the Nielsen Company.

This means millions of users logging in and out on a daily basis. Recently, however, Facebook has come under scrutiny for its ability to monitor these users after logging out of the site.

Ten public interest groups and two congressmen wrote to the Federal Trade Commission in late September requesting an investigation of Facebook's privacy policy.

In the letter, the groups said their concern was spurred by findings published by an Australian technology blogger, which indicated that Facebook had been gathering information about websites its users visited even after exiting the site.

The networking site is also facing several lawsuits hinged on their information-gathering practices, one of which was filed in California late last month.

Facebook did not respond to a request for comment. In

a statement to The Associated Press, Facebook admitted that several of its cookies included identifiers on users' computers even after they logged out.

But the company said there was no security or privacy breach because the information had only been used to personalize content and provide security for its users.

Facebook already tracks users' browsing activity while a user is on the site, based on its terms of agreement. Facebook uses the information to tailor each advertisement to the user's preferences and to suggest friends who have similar interests, the company said in the statement.

Eric Bollens, fifth-year UCLA computer science student, said he thought Facebook had not violated privacy laws because it was only taking data provided by users through their own Web browsers.

Web companies, including Google, have long tracked user activity for advertising purposes, he said.

"Facebook has gotten us to relinquish our own information without even realizing it," said Bollens, who works at the UCLA Office of Information Technology as a software architect.

Younger users are especially comfortable sharing per-

sonal information with others through social networking, said Steve Peterson, professor of communication studies at UCLA. College-aged individuals are among the most active users of the site, according to the Nielsen Company.

Under the current terms of agreement, users give Facebook a worldwide license to use content that is posted on or in connection with Facebook, which can be sublicensed to other companies.

Lauren Palmer, second-year English student at UCLA, said she had not known that Facebook can access user activity.

"The fact that Facebook has a tracker on my profile and can see what I am doing online is intimidating," she said.

Facebook's data use policy states the site receives data from the computer, mobile phone or other device used to access the site — data including users' IP addresses, locations, the type of browser they use and the pages they visit.

Small files — called cookies — are installed routinely on users' computers by websites to simplify the log-in process and track users' online activity.

Although he does not feel personally threatened, UCLA fourth-year neuroscience student Hansen Lui said Facebook should clearly tell its

users that their Internet activity can be monitored.

Lui added people should also just be careful about what they post on the website.

"Some social networking sites failed because they weren't well-constructed, but Facebook might die out if it continues to anger its users," he said.

Peterson, who has taught a social networking course at UCLA for about five years, said the number of students who use Facebook has declined over the years.

"People are growing tired of the Facebook's complex changes and because constantly sharing information becomes old after a while," he said.

Gabriel Rossman, UCLA sociology professor, said changes in Facebook's privacy settings are making individuals uncomfortable with sharing information, but it will push them toward having a more unified sense of self.

Individuals tailor their behavior to different social groups, but Facebook forces them to create a unified "profile," Rossman said.

But this might not be a bad thing, he added.

"Facebook's changes are pushing us to behave the same way in front of everyone we interact with," he said.

students should be prepared to show their student ID and, if applicable, their insurance card. Payment is expected upfront in either cash, credit card or check form.

Gibbs said students should talk with a doctor if they have egg allergies or other concerns.

Making an appointment with the doctor will allow students to be recommended other options if necessary. The flu shot is not available during pregnancy through Lafene and Gibbs recommended that pregnant women consult with their doctors.

Willie the Wildcat promoted the flu shot at a Riley County Commission meeting on Sept. 29. Dannielle Ruoff, the head of cheerleading and mascot coach, said that the athletic department was contacted by the commission, requesting that Willie attend a press conference to show the community that it is important to get a flu shot.

"Willie attended as a supporter and icon to encourage the community to get a flu shot," Ruoff said.

For more information on the flu, the flu vaccine, or dates for Lafene's clinics, visit k-state.edu/lafene/flushot.htm

Lafene has flu shots available to students at discounted rate

Sandi Lam
staff writer

Flu season is in full swing. Julie Gibbs, director of health promotions at Lafene Health Center, said that from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, 95 patients at Lafene were diagnosed with the influenza virus.

The first events offered were held south of the Derby Dining Center on Monday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Today, they will be changing the location to Bosco Student Plaza from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and again on Wednesday. The activities will continue to the K-State-Salina campus on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Getting the shot is a very inexpensive thing to do," Gibbs said. "It is more expensive if you do get the flu and have to miss class. It's an easy and cheap thing to do to protect yourself."

While the flu shot is offered at places such as Hy-Vee and Walgreens, students might find it more convenient to receive the shot on campus at Lafene Health Center.

According to Gibbs, the shot is available at Lafene on Thursdays through Nov. 17. Flu shots will also be available at Lafene's Annual Health Fair, which will take place Nov. 2 in the K-State Student Union Courtyard from 10:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

The cost of the shot is \$15 for students and \$20 for nonstudents. When planning to get the shot from Lafene,

that research suggests will be most common: an <http://www.cdc.gov/virus/>, an influenza B virus and an H1N1 virus.

In the United States, on average 5% to 20% of the population gets the flu and more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from seasonal flu-related complications.

Who is at high risk for developing flu-related complications?

1. Pregnant women

2. Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old

3. People 50 years of age and older

4. People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions

5. People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities

6. People who live with or care for those at high risk.

All facts from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC.gov

FACTS ABOUT THE INFLUENZA AND THE FLU SHOT

Influenza

Flu-like symptoms include

fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some

people also may have vomiting and diarrhea. People may be infected with the flu, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

The main way that influenza viruses are thought to spread is from person to person in respiratory droplets of coughs and sneezes.

People with flu can spread it to others up to about 6 feet away.

Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5 to 7 days after becoming sick.

The Flu Shot

"Flu shots" are inactivated vaccines (containing killed virus) that are given with a needle.

While there are many different flu viruses, the flu vaccine protects against the three viruses

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